



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **Puerto Rican man nabbed by ICE for possession of child porn**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—A 74-year-old man was arrested here yesterday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents for violations to Title 18, United States Code 2252—possession of child pornography.

When Ralph Davila Sanchez arrived at the Luis Munoz Marin International Airport from the Dominican Republic, a secondary inspection by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors revealed 19 video cassettes in Davila-Sanchez' luggage.

An ICE examination of Davila-Sanchez's videos revealed a compilation of scenes depicting Davila-Sanchez' making sexual conduct with several females one of whom appeared to be a minor.

ICE conducted a search of Davila-Sanchez's residence and seized 55 additional video cassettes. The seized material was sent to ICE's computer forensics laboratory to determine if its contents reveal additional child pornography to that found in his luggage.

"Those engaged in the manufacture, distribution and possession of child pornography should know that the penalty for this crime is up to 30 years in federal prison," said Lydia St. John-Mellado, special agent in charge of ICE's office of investigations in Puerto Rico. "ICE, through Operation Predator, and in close partnership with other Department of Homeland Security agencies, has the resources to identify alleged child pornographers and those who hurt our children. We will not rest until we bring them to justice."

Rivera-Sanchez is in federal custody at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo where he awaits for the outcome of his case.

Manufacturing, distributing and possessing child pornography carries a penalty of 30, 20 or 10 years in prison, respectively. The manufacturing of child pornography also carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years.

The public is reminded that a criminal complaint and/or indictment contain only charges and are not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This arrest was part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 7,856 individuals arrested nationwide.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*